# Autumn Nature Sprites

**Kit contains:**

- 3 sprite templates

**You will need:** glue, coloring supplies, and a mobile device (optional).

MORTON GROVE PUBLIC LIBRARY
6140 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, IL 60053
Youth Info Desk: 847-929-5102 | mgpl.org

# INSTRUCTIONS

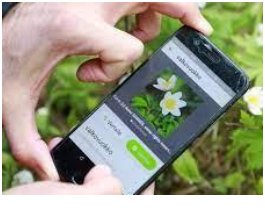
**Step 1.** Go on a quest outdoors to collect interesting fall nature bits for your artwork: leaves, berries, etc.

**Step 2.** Identify your nature bits. Can you figure out what kind of plants your leaves or berries came from? If you need help, you can download the free iNaturalist app on your mobile device. (Ask adult permission first!)

iNaturalist

With iNaturalist, you can make an observation, that is, take a picture of your leaves, berries, wildlife, etc., and the app will suggest matches.

*(Fun fact: If you take a picture of animal poop, it will identify the animal.)*



**Step 3.** Color your nature sprite templates. Then, use a LOT of glue to stick your outdoor finds to your sprites. Use your imagination: will you make wings or hats or wands or whole outfits?

Autumn Nature Sprite!

# WHY LEAVES CHANGE COLOR

In the autumn, we see the leaves of deciduous plants change color. The pigments in leaves cause them to have colors in the first place.

In spring and summer, leaves make a lot of green chlorophyll, which helps plants make energy from the sun. This is called photosynthesis.

Chlorophyll (greens)

Xanthophylls (yellows)

Carotenoids (oranges)

Anthocyanins (reds)

When the days get shorter and cooler, the leaves stop making chlorophyll to prepare for winter. The leaves are done making food for the season. Without the chlorophyll, you can see the other colors: yellow xanthophylls, orange carotenoids, and red anthocyanins.

*Source: https://scijinks.gov/leaves-color/*